



# Cambridge Police Department BridgeStat

January 7, 2011



# Introduction

The Cambridge Police Department is proud to announce our new BridgeStat program. This program, released on the first Friday of every month, is designed to share information with the public and combat crime in the city.

BridgeStat is a multilayered dynamic approach to crime reduction, quality of life improvement, and personnel and resource management. Police personnel meet to devise strategies and tactics to solve problems, reduce crime, and ultimately improve quality of life in their community. Similar systems are in use in other major cities including: NYC, Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, Austin, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Baltimore.

Through the new BridgeStat program, the Cambridge Police Department will produce a monthly public report to the community on current police priorities in terms of crime, traffic, and disorder issues in the city.

Beginning iterations of BridgeStat include information relating to historical trends, a breakdown of crimes by type, strategies the Cambridge Police are deploying to deal with crime patterns that have been identified, and tips for how citizens can protect themselves and help reduce crime in Cambridge. This version contains a detailed review of crime for 2010 as we begin 2011 and our work to keep crime at the historic lows we have seen while targeting problem areas.



# A PERSPECTIVE ON SERIOUS CRIME IN CAMBRIDGE:

- The Crime Index is composed of selected offenses used to gauge fluctuations in the overall volume and rate of crime reported to police. The offenses included are the violent crimes of **murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault**, and the property crimes of **burglary, larceny, and auto theft**. The Crime Index was developed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting program to standardize the way in which law enforcement agencies report crime statistics. In 2007, the Cambridge Police converted from UCR submission to entering crime data electronically in to the National Incident Based Reporting System.
  
- **The total crime index has fallen 44% in the 25 years since 1986. Serious crime numbers have been on a steady decline since the late 1970s**, with the exception of spikes at the turn of two decades. These spikes were caused by a sharp increase in property crimes in 1980 and a sharp increase in violent crimes in 1990. After 1997, the crime rate leveled off for approximately six years, until it dropped by 10% in 2003. Since 2003, crime totals have averaged about 4,000 crimes a year, with fluctuations of around 300 crimes above and below this amount. However, serious crime dropped for two consecutive years, a 15% decline between 2007 and 2009. The trend of serious crime not sustaining a decline for 3 consecutive years held true in 2010.



# SERIOUS CRIME IN CAMBRIDGE: 2010

- Serious crime **increased by 1% in Cambridge in 2010**. There were 44 additional Part 1 crimes reported in 2010 when compared with the previous year. This slight rise in crime comes on the heels of the 2009 total which represented a 40-year low in reported offenses. In fact, **the 3,614 serious crimes recorded in Cambridge in 2010 represents the City's second lowest Uniform Crime Reporting Index number reported to the FBI since 1970**.
- After recording two consecutive yearly declines of 5% in 2008 and 10% in 2009, **a certain leveling of the crime dip was expected**. Cambridge had not recorded three consecutive crime declines since the Eisenhower administration. However, when compared with the 2007 total of serious crimes, there were 541 fewer incidents reported in 2010. When measured against the 5-year weighted average for Part 1 crimes in Cambridge, which is 3,835 incidents, a six percent reduction is revealed.
- Further analysis reveals that while **property crime registered a slight uptick of two percent, violent crime fell 3%** in 2010. The violent crime of robbery is slightly above a 50 year low and the property crime of **auto theft is at an all-time low**.



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Cambridge Part I Crimes

# CRIME INDEX: 2010

BridgeStat – December 2010



# Part I Stats: Totals

- **Violent crime drops 3% and hits 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest level in 40 years.**
  - Since 1970, there has been only 1 year with less violent crime and that was 2007, when 17 fewer incidents were reported than in 2010.
- **Despite 2% uptick, property crime sits at near 50-year low.**
  - There were just 56 more property crimes reported in 2010 than in 2009, which saw the lowest number of property crimes reported since the 1960's.

	2009	2010	Change	*5-Yr Avg	2010	Change
<b>Violent Crime Total</b>	449	<b>437</b>	<b>-3%</b>	454	<b>437</b>	<b>-4%</b>
<b>Property Crime Total</b>	3121	<b>3177</b>	<b>2%</b>	3381	<b>3177</b>	<b>-6%</b>
<b>Total Part 1 Crimes</b>	3570	<b>3614</b>	<b>1%</b>	3835	<b>3614</b>	<b>-6%</b>



# Part I Stats: Violent Crime

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Crime	2009	2010	Change	5-yr Avg	2010	Change
<b>Murder</b>	2	<b>0</b>	<b>-100%</b>	1	<b>0</b>	<b>-100%</b>
<b>Rape</b>	20	<b>23</b>	<b>15%</b>	17	<b>23</b>	<b>35%</b>
<b>Robbery</b>	172	<b>163</b>	<b>-5%</b>	180	<b>163</b>	<b>-9%</b>
-Commercial Robbery	21	22	<b>5%</b>	35	22	<b>-37%</b>
-Street Robbery	151	141	<b>-7%</b>	146	141	<b>-3%</b>
<b>Aggravated Assault</b>	255	<b>251</b>	<b>-2%</b>	255	<b>251</b>	<b>-2%</b>



# Part I Stats: Property Crime

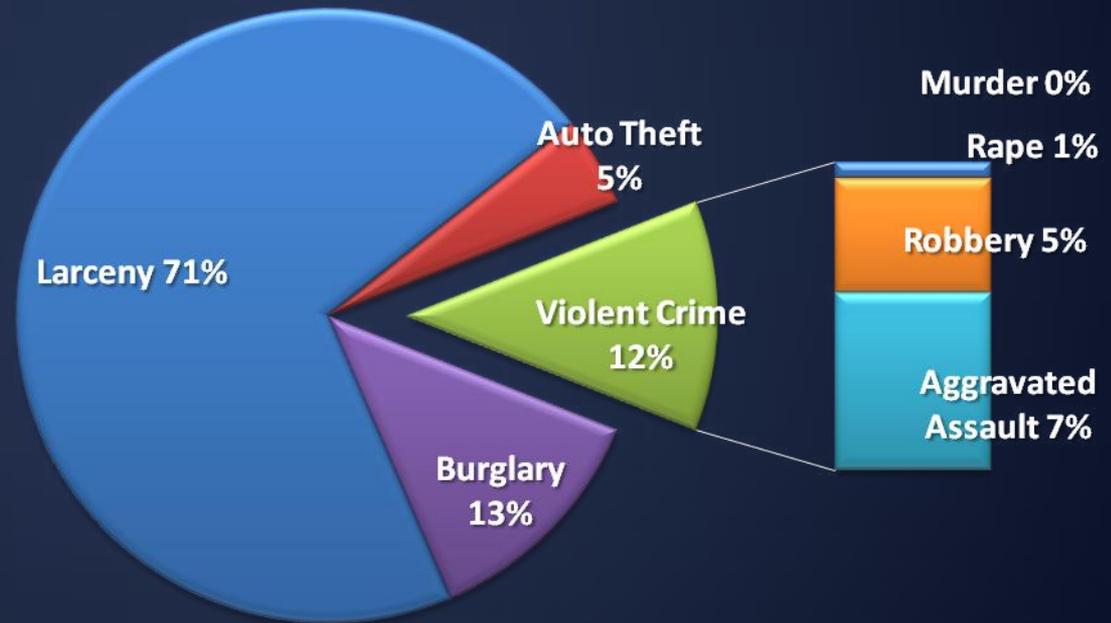
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Crime	2009	2010	Change	5-Yr Avg	2010	Change
<b>Burglary</b>	429	453	6%	531	453	-15%
-Housebreaks	343	366	7%	421	366	-13%
-Commercial Breaks	86	87	1%	110	87	-21%
<b>Larceny</b>	2496	2555	2%	2620	2555	-2%
-Larceny from Building	321	393	22%	389	393	1%
-Larceny from MV	913	784	-14%	973	784	-19%
-Larceny from Person	331	342	3%	342	342	No Change
-Larceny from Residence	185	192	4%	196	192	-2%
-Larceny of Bicycle	284	380	34%	257	380	48%
-Shoplifting	369	365	-1%	359	365	2%
-Miscellaneous Larceny	93	99	6%	103	99	-4%
<b>Auto Theft</b>	196	169	-14%	230	169	-27%



# Part I Crimes by % of Total Crime

- **Property crime accounts for 88%** of all part I index crime reported in Cambridge.
- **Violent crime accounted for only 12%** of index crime reported in Cambridge in 2010. When violent crime peaked in the early 1990's it accounted for 16% of all crime reported in Cambridge. Since then that percentage has steadily declined.





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A look at historical crime levels in Cambridge

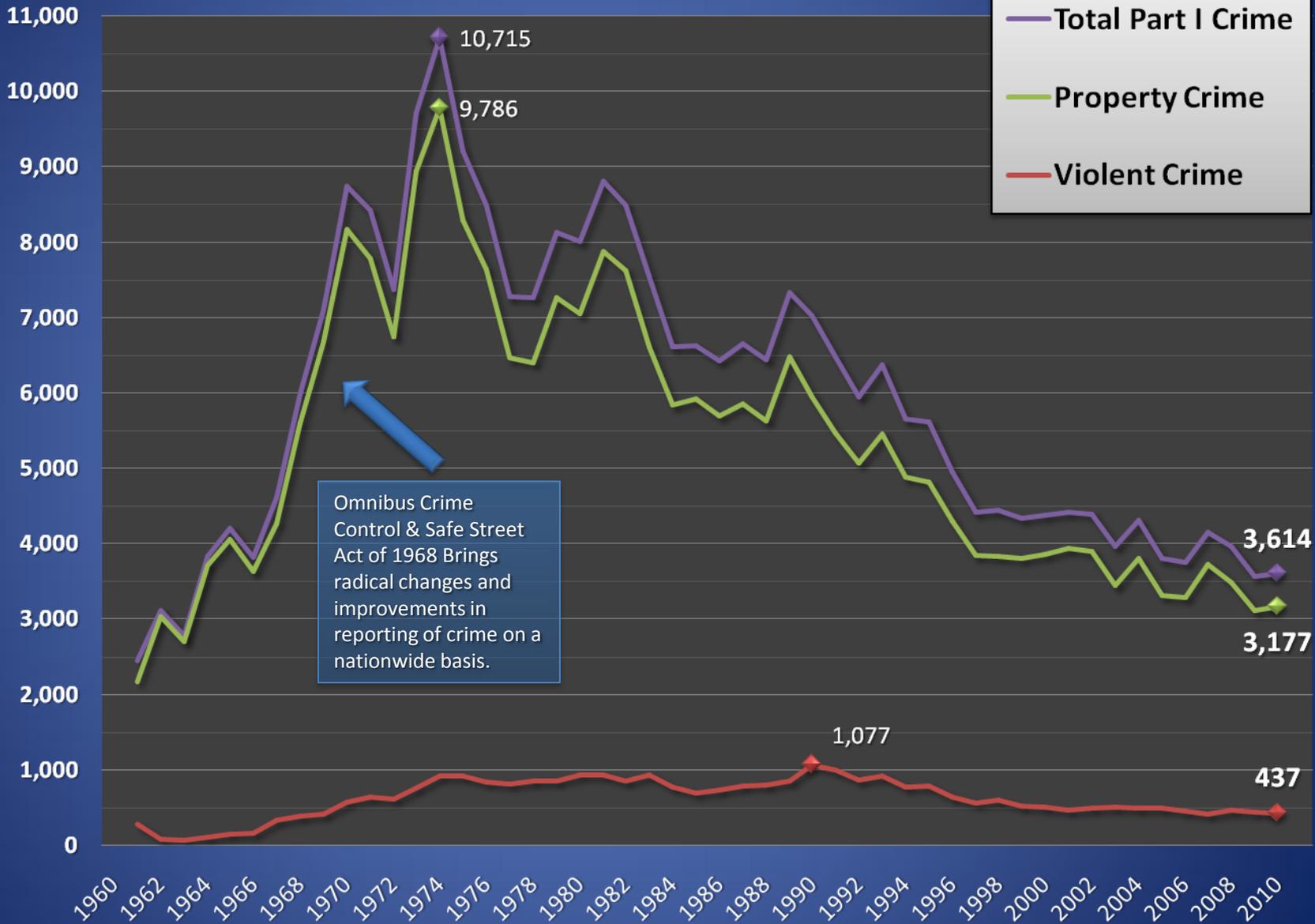
# 50 YEARS OF CRIME IN CAMBRIDGE

BridgeStat – December 2010



# Crime in Cambridge: 1961 - 2010

Cambridge Police BridgeStat





# MURDER

- For only the fourth time in the past 50 years, **there were no murders recorded in Cambridge in 2010**. Prior years without a homicide being registered in Cambridge were: 1985, 2004 and 2007.
- The **last homicide to occur in Cambridge was on June 16, 2009**. A 33-year-old Cambridge native was found with multiple gunshot wounds in front of the driveway to the Fresh Pond Apartments located at 362/364 Rindge Ave. He was pronounced dead at the scene. **This incident remains under investigation** at the present time. Prior to this 18 – month hiatus between murders in the City, the longest interval between homicides in Cambridge since 1960 was the 26 – months from March of 2006 to June of 2008.
- For the 30-year period between 1960 and 1989, **the City of Cambridge averaged slightly less than five murders per year. The annual average since 1990 has fallen to approximately two per year**. Nationally, cities of 100,000 residents average 10 murders each year. Trend analysis over the past twenty years points to two recurring murder scenarios in Cambridge: domestic murder, in which one spouse is brutally killed by the other in a homicidal rage, and the murder of young males by a handgun or knife in acts of retaliatory street violence.



# MURDER

Change from 2009

-100%

Change from 5 yr Average

-100%

- There were **0** murders recorded in Cambridge in 2010.
- The last homicide to occur in Cambridge was **18 months ago** in June, 2009.
- The annual average murder rate in Cambridge since 1990 has fallen to approximately **2 per year**.
- Nationally, cities of 100,000 residents average **10 murders** each year.





# MURDER: *STATISTICS: 1990-2010*

- 42 people murdered in 39 incidents
  - In 3 of the incidents, 2 people were killed
- 26 victims were male
  - Average age of 31
- 16 victims were female
  - Average age of 42
- Most common weapons:
  - Handguns (19 incidents)
  - Knives (11 incidents)
- 12 of the 39 cases since 1990 are still under investigation or remain unsolved.
- 15 of the 17 murders since 2000 have been cleared by arrest.
- Nationally, cities of 100,000 in population average 10 murders per year.



# VERDICTS RENDERED FOR PRIOR CAMBRIDGE MURDERS IN 2010:

- Elysee Bresilla, 31, of Rosendale, was found guilty of 1<sup>st</sup> Degree murder on February 5, 2010 for killing a 22-year-old man, Doowensky Nazaire, outside the Phoenix Landing in Cambridge on March 28, 2006. Bresilla was sentenced to life in prison without the eligibility of parole.
- Sherrod Bright, 27, of Dorchester pled guilty to manslaughter and accessory before the fact in connection with the 2006 shooting death of Corey Davis, 19, in Cambridge. Bright was sentenced to 10 years in State Prison, followed by 10 years probation. Ahmad Bright, 17, of Dorchester and Remel Ahart, 21, of Quincy were both found guilty on murder charges in 2009. It is alleged that Ahmad and Remel carried out Sherrod's order for Corey Davis to be killed.
- James Foley, 41, was found guilty of second degree murder for the fatal stabbing of Steven Raftery in Cambridge on June 26, 2008. Middlesex Superior Court Judge Thomas P. Billings sentenced Foley to life in prison with the eligibility of parole.



# RAPE

- The increases in the reporting of rapes over the past three years can partly be attributed to a surge in domestic and acquaintance incidents where a minor has been involved. The FBI reports that the rate for forcible rapes on the National level was estimated at 59.1 offenses per 100,000 female inhabitants. The Cambridge Police Department cautions that a significant portion of rapes go unrecorded, making the validity of statistics uncertain.
- The Cambridge Police Department takes reports of rapes very seriously and encourages all victims to report these crimes to police by calling **9-1-1** or speaking with investigators at **617-349-3370** or by e-mail at [Lclarke@CambridgePolice.org](mailto:Lclarke@CambridgePolice.org).
- Please view our Annual Report, slated to be released in March, for a full accounting of statistics dealing with the crimes of rape and sexual assault in the City of Cambridge.



# ROBBERY

- In 2010, there were **163 robberies reported which translates to an 5% decrease when compared with the 2009 total.** When compared with the weighted five-year average for this crime of 180 incidents, it translates to a 9% decline. Further analysis reveals that street robbery fell 7% and commercial robbery reported a 5% increase.
- The periphery of **Harvard and Central Squares, the Hampshire Street corridor dividing Area 4 and Harrington and the Somerville border of the Agassiz neighborhood** were considered “hot spots” for street robberies in Cambridge in 2010.
- A distinct pattern of street robberies was identified on the borders of Harvard Square during the Fall of 2010. The **majority of the victims were males, around 25 years of age, walking alone, using a cell phone, or listening to an MP3 player.** There were nearly fifteen incidents in this series until it was curtailed with the arrest of a suspect from Malden.



# ROBBERY

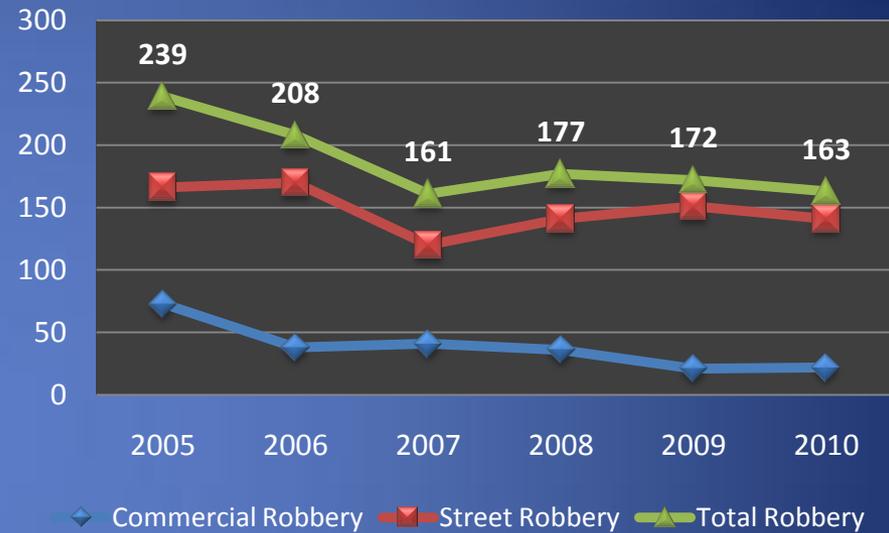
Change from 2009

-5%

Change from 5 yr Average

-9%

- The fact that commercial robberies rose from **21** incidents in 2009 to **22** crimes in 2010 should be tempered with the knowledge that last year's total was one of the lowest recorded for Cambridge in Decades. From 1970 to 1990, Cambridge averaged **100 commercial robberies** annually.
- Our Crime Analysis Unit breaks down street robbery incidents into categorizations of similar types for further and more accurate analysis:
  - Approximately **42%** of the street robberies were “predatory,” where the victim was approached by one or two suspects, threatened, and robbed.
  - The second most common type of street robberies were pack robberies involving three or more suspects, which accounted for **25%** of the total.
  - Purse snatchings and robberies by acquaintances combined represented **31%** of the total.





# ASSAULT

- Aggravated assaults **decreased by 2% in Cambridge** in 2010. This violent crime was also 2% under the 5-year weighted average of 255 incidents per annum when 251 were recoded this year.
- Analysis of the past twenty years reveals that aggravated assault reached its peak in the early 1990s. Between 1984 and 1989, Cambridge recorded about 350 incidents per year. In 1990, it jumped an unprecedented 41% to 614 incidents. From its height in 1993 of 643 assaults, this target crime fell into a steady decline for the next ten years. **Over the past five years, aggravated assaults have leveled off at roughly 250 incidents per year.**
- **Thirty-five percent of the aggravated assaults in 2009 were domestic** incidents. Over the past five years, the rate of domestic incidents has ranged from a quarter to forty percent of all assaults. Neighborhood breakdown of domestic assaults in 2010:
  - Area 4 – 22%
  - Harrington – 18%
  - Cambridgeport – 18%
- There were eight shootings in 2009, producing eight victims with gunshot wounds (2 fatal). In 2010, **there were four shootings, with four victims, and zero fatalities.**



# AGGRAVATED ASSAULT

Change from 2009

-2%

Change from 5 yr Average

-2%

- Aggravated assaults decreased by **2%** in Cambridge in 2010. This violent crime was also **2%** under the 5-year weighted average of 255 incidents per annum when 251 were recorded this year.
- Another way to look at aggravated assaults is to classify the relationship between the offender and the victim. This list, though not all encompassing, shows the relationship between the offender and the victim in the 255 aggravated assaults in 2010:
  - Stranger -32%
  - Acquaintance -20%
  - Romantic partner – 13%
  - Parent /child -10%





# BURGLARY

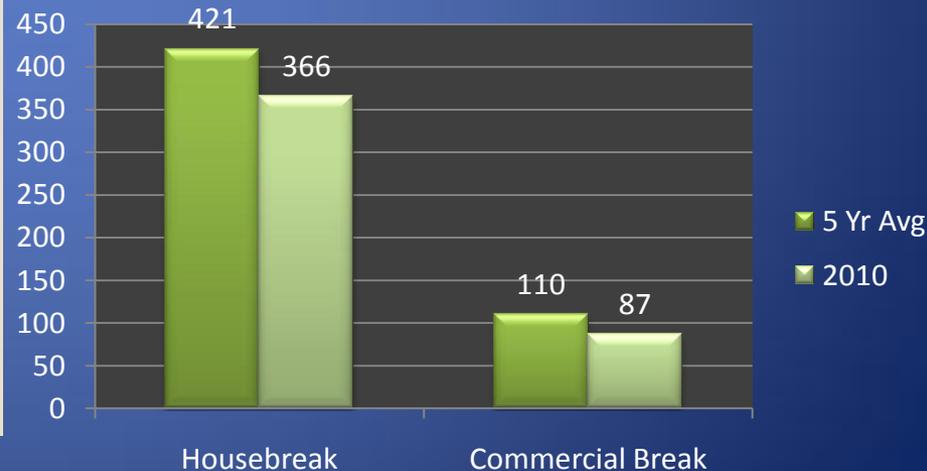
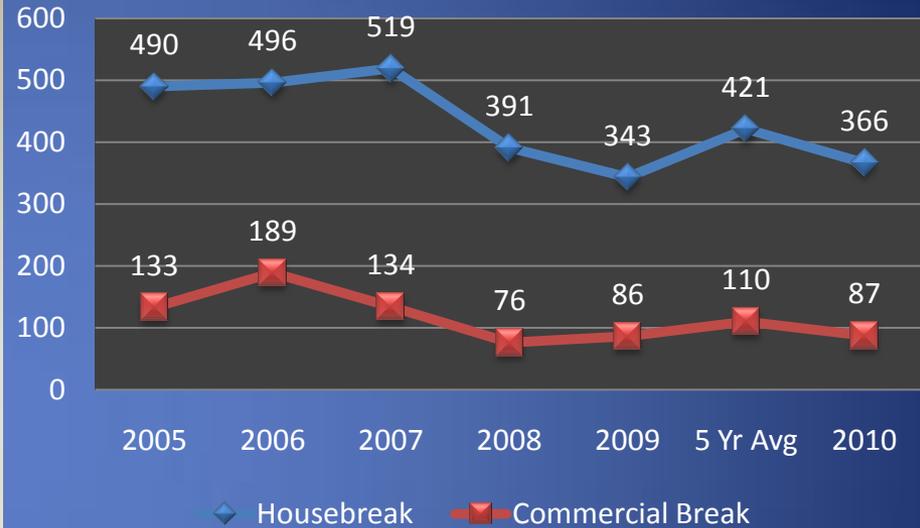
Change from 2009

6%

Change from 5 yr Average

-15%

- **Total Burglary**, the combination of residential and commercial burglary, **decreased by 15%** when compared to the 5 year average.
- **Housebreaks** have recorded a **slight increase (7%)** compared to last year.
- Housebreaks along the Somerville border created a problem late summer and early fall.
- Peabody and West Cambridge both saw a cluster of breaks in late summer.
- **Commercial Breaks** are **up by 1 incident** compared to last year.
- 18% of commercial breaks were attempts in which no entry was gained.
- Toward the end of the year pharmacy breaks emerged as a regional pattern. Cambridge saw a break in September at Skenderian Apothecary on Cambridge St and an attempt the same night at Inman Pharmacy nearby.





# LARCENY

Change from 2009

**2%**

Change from 5 yr Average

**-2%**

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- Overall, larceny increased by **2%** in 2010 compared to 2009. However, larceny registered a decrease of **2%** compared to the 5-year average.
- The two larceny types with dramatic increases in 2010 (compared to 2009) were:
  - Larceny of Bicycles **+34%**
  - Larceny from Buildings **+22%**
- Other Larceny Crimes:
  - Larceny from MV **-14%**
  - Shoplifting **-1%**
  - Larceny /Person **+3%**
  - Larceny /Resid. **+4%**





# LARCENY: *from MV*

Change from 2009

**-14%**

Change from 5 yr Average

**-19%**

- Larceny from MVs finished the year **down 14%** compared to 2009 and **down 19%** compared to the 5-year average.
- A pattern of Larceny from MVs emerged at Whole Foods on River St. in late September and resulted in an arrest in early November.
- Larceny from MVs increased along the periphery of Harvard Sq during early November but cooled off in December following the arrest of a homeless male.





# LARCENY: *from Person*

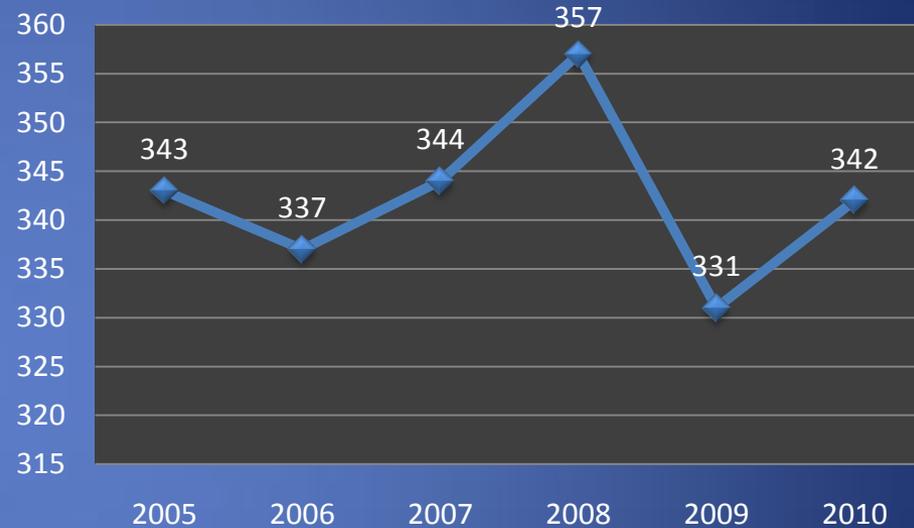
Change from 2009

3%

Change from 5 yr Average

0%

- Larcenies from persons increased dramatically early in the Summer of 2010 (up **17%** at that time), but quieted down substantially after BridgeStat was introduced and meetings implemented directed strategies to address the problem.
- Brief upticks were reported sporadically during the second half of the year, but no defined patterns emerged.
- Larcenies from Persons finished the year at **3%** higher than 2009 and exactly even with the 5-year average.





# AUTO THEFT

Change from 2009

**-14%**

Change from 5 yr Average

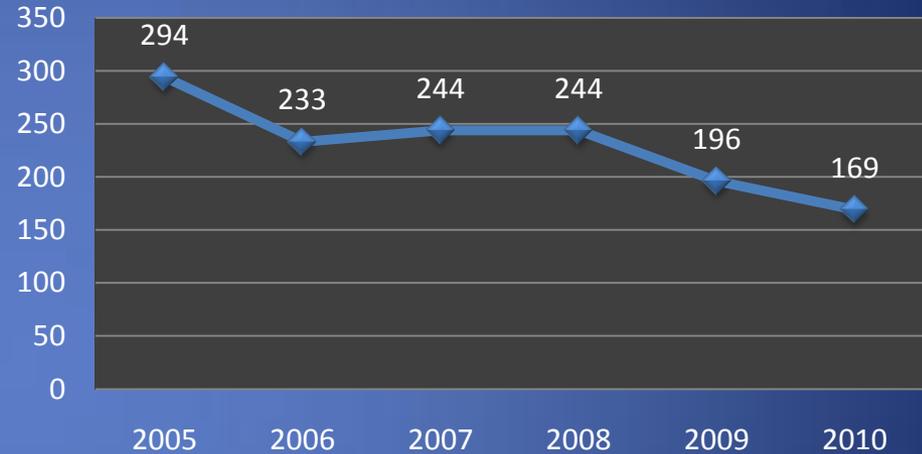
**-27%**

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- Auto theft is **down by 14%** when compared to 2009. This is a **record low** for the city which used to see staggering auto theft numbers.

– In 1974 there were 5,203 cars reported stolen – Nearly 1.5 times the total number of all crimes reported in 2010!

- Auto theft recovery for 2010 was **67%**.
- Cambridgeport recorded the highest number of auto thefts at 26, followed by Area 4 at 21.
- The top three makes of car stolen were Honda, Toyota, and Dodge.
- The Auto Theft total in Cambridge is at a **50-year low**.





# Annual Report

If you would like more detailed information about crime in Cambridge for 2010, look for our full **Annual Crime Report** scheduled to be released in March of 2011 at [http://www2.cambridgema.gov/CPD/publications/crime\\_2010.cfm](http://www2.cambridgema.gov/CPD/publications/crime_2010.cfm)

- The Cambridge Police Department's Annual Crime Report is an attempt to provide detailed information so that citizens can make informed decisions about crime and safety in their neighborhoods. The more information made available to the public, the better the input will be in aiding the Police response to crime.
- The Annual Report offers a comprehensive analysis of the crimes reported by the Cambridge Police Department to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. The UCR Program has been collecting national crime statistics from local police departments since 1930. Based on seriousness and frequency, police departments are required to report their statistics on seven crimes which comprise the UCR Crime Index: murder, forcible rape, aggravated assault, robbery, burglary, larceny, and auto theft. In 2007, The Cambridge Police Department initiated the submission of crimes into the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS). The general concepts, such as jurisdictional rules, of collecting and reporting UCR data are the same in NIBRS. The difference in the programs is that NIBRS captures much greater detail on each crime than the summary-based UCR program. Another difference in the programs is that agencies submit UCR data in written documents, where as NIBRS data are submitted electronically.



# Help Prevent Crime

The Cambridge Police Department would like to thank the public for their help in keeping crime at or below historic lows in 2010. It is the strong partnership between the police and the community that makes this possible.

- If you are a victim of crime or see a crime occurring, please dial 9-1-1.
- To Share Information with the Cambridge Police Department:
  - Call our Non-Emergency Telephone Number at **617-349-3300**.
  - Send an Anonymous TEXT-A-TIP:
    - Send an ANONYMOUS text message to **Tip411 (847411)**. Begin your message with **Tip650** and then type your message. You will receive a response from the Cambridge Police with the option to continue communicating. Please remember that this is not a replacement for 9-1-1. If you witness an emergency situation, please call 9-1-1 immediately.
  - Send an Anonymous Crime Tip E-Mail at [http://www2.cambridgema.gov/cpd/contact/mailform.cfm?email\\_id=101](http://www2.cambridgema.gov/cpd/contact/mailform.cfm?email_id=101)
- To receive information from the Cambridge Police Department:
  - Sign up to receive Citizen Alerts of notable events & crimes by visiting <http://www.citizenobserver.com/cov6/app/group.html?id=2595> and following the simple instructions.
  - “Like” the Cambridge Police Department on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/CambridgePolice](http://www.facebook.com/CambridgePolice).
  - Follow [@CambridgePolice](https://twitter.com/CambridgePolice) on Twitter.



# Questions?

- BridgeStat is a work in progress and will evolve over time to include more detailed information.
- We welcome all questions, comments, and suggestions.
- Please direct your feedback to:  
[BridgeStat@CambridgePolice.org](mailto:BridgeStat@CambridgePolice.org)
- For more detailed analytical reports, please refer to the Publications page on our website:  
[http://www.cambridgema.gov/CPD/publications/crime\\_2010.cfm](http://www.cambridgema.gov/CPD/publications/crime_2010.cfm)